

The major nonrheumatic diseases associated with rheumatoid factor (RF)-positivity

Condition	Frequency of RF, percent
Aging (>age 60)	5 to 25
Infection	
Bacterial endocarditis*	25 to 50
Hepatitis B or hepatitis C*	20 to 75
Tuberculosis	8
Syphilis*	Up to 13
Parasitic diseases	20 to 90
Leprosy*	5 to 58
Other viral infection*	15 to 65
Pulmonary disease	
Sarcoidosis*	3 to 33
Interstitial pulmonary fibrosis	10 to 50
Silicosis	30 to 50
Asbestosis	30
Miscellaneous diseases	
Primary biliary cholangitis*	45 to 70
Malignancy*	5 to 25
After multiple immunizations	10 to 15

* Refers to disorders that may cause symptoms suggestive of rheumatoid arthritis. The best-documented examples of viral infection (in addition to hepatitis B and C) are rubella, mumps, influenza, and HIV. Chagas' disease, Leishmaniasis, onchocerciasis, and schistosomiasis are major parasitic diseases. B cell neoplasms are the most common malignancies.

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